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RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 3291
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 000436

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

FOR DHS WASHDC, NRC WASHDC, DOE/NNSA FOR N. NELSON-JEAN,
STATE FOR INS/NESS FOR FENSTERMACHER & PLAPP, STATE FOR
WHA/CAN FOR GREG SPROW

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TAGS: [KNNP](#) [NRC](#) [ENRG](#) [DOE](#) [TRGY](#) [SENV](#) [OVIP](#) [MX](#) [PARM](#) [RU](#)
NO
SUBJECT: CONCERNS ABOUT RUSSIA, WASTE, AND SECURITY DURING
NRC CHAIRMAN KLEIN'S VISIT TO NORWAY

Classified By: Political Counselor Kristen Bauer for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Summary: On his recent visit to Norway, Nuclear
Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Dale Klein was
approached by Russian nuclear regulators extremely concerned
about their vanishing authority. Norwegian officials also
appear to be frustrated about Russia,s limited cooperation
in cleanup efforts and worried about Russia,s nuclear naval
and ice-breaker fleets. A visit to the Halden Research
Reactor highlighted security concerns at the site. End
Summary.

Purpose of visit; Officials met

12. (SBU) Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Dale
Klein visited Norway from June 10-13, 2008, for the purpose
of providing a briefing at the Halden 50th Anniversary
Seminar, and for a site visit to the Halden Research Reactor
Project. He met with several significant government,
industry, and education officials, including: Oyvind Slake,
Secretary of State for Industry and Trade; Luis Echavarri,
OECD Director General; Bernard Fourest, Electricite de France
Chairman; Judith Melin, Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate
Director General; Ole Harbitz, Norwegian Radiation Protection
Authority Director General; Kjell Bendiksen, Institute for
Energy Technology President, and; Sergey Adamchik, Federal
Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service
Deputy Chairman. He also met with the operating managers of
the Halden Project, including Wolfgang Wiesenack, Halden
Project Manager, and; Fridtjov Owre, Halden Deputy Project
Manager. During the Halden site visit he toured the Halden
Man Machine Laboratory, the Virtual Reality Center, the
Halden Workshop and the reactor control room.

Russian Regulators Lose Authority

13. (SBU) Prior to commencement of the Halden seminar, the
Chairman met with two officials of the Russian nuclear
regulating authority Rostekhnadzor: the Deputy Chairman,
Sergey Adamchik, and Irina Sokolova, Deputy Head of
International Relations. Mr. Adamchik expressed significant

concern that, in reorganizing the federal executive, his agency had its regulatory authority removed, and that this authority effectively no longer exists. As such, effective legal control over Russian nuclear activities now lies in the hands of political authorities. The Russian delegation provided a written copy of a discussion of the issue and requested that the U.S. government send a letter to the Russian leadership supporting a restoration of Rostekhnadzor's regulatory authority.

Concerns about Russia dominate meeting with NPRA

¶4. (C) The Chairman met with the Norwegian National Radiation Protection Agency (NPRA) and was briefed on their emergency preparedness programs and concerns regarding nuclear waste in the Russian Kola Peninsula region. Much of Norway's concern regarding emergency preparedness is due to &out of country8 concerns, specifically Russia's naval and ice-breaker fleets. The NPRA said that, post-Chernobyl, they have installed a 29 station radioactivity monitoring network around the country. NPRA does not have significant mobile monitoring capability, such as by aircraft.

¶5. (C) During discussions about nuclear waste in the Kola Peninsula region, the NPRA identified significant nuclear legacy management issues associated with Russian waste disposal. Examples included an old vessel tied up at a pier with approximately 600 spent fuel assemblies onboard. The NPRA staff expressed frustration in that they have been trying to work to enhance a safety culture mindset with its Russian regulatory counterpart, but have been driven instead

by Russia to focus only on specific problems. Additionally, the NPRA has been challenged to keep an atmosphere of cooperation going in an environment of reduced financial support to Russia from Norway.

¶6. (SBU) The NPRA requested U.S. participation in its cooperation programs with its Russian counterparts.

Presentations made at the Halden Seminar

¶7. (SBU) On Wednesday, June 11th the Chairman attended the Halden 50th anniversary seminar and made a presentation entitled &Development trends of nuclear energy utilization and safety regulation in the United States.8 The seminar was well attended, with over 130 guests from 15 countries. Notable points from the presentations include:

--Oyvind Slake, State Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Norway, explained that, in the 1970,s Norway had some interest in nuclear power, but, following extensive oil discoveries, the Norwegian parliament set a policy against nuclear power in 1980. Norway does believe, however, that the peaceful use of nuclear power does not contradict non-proliferation concerns.

--Mr. Slake also said that Norway began cooperation initiatives with the Russian nuclear regulator in the Kola Peninsula region in the early 1990,s.

--Luis Echavarri, Director General, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, discussing uranium supply security, outlined that uranium commodity is a readily available resource with known reserves of 150-200 years.

--Mr. Echavarri also said that the key policy challenges to nuclear power include: implementation of high level waste repositories; involvement of stakeholders in decision making, and; coherent regulatory framework and energy policy. He also provided that key infrastructure and financing challenges include: education and training, building industrial capability, and financing reactors and fuel cycle facilities.

--Pal Perstrud, Director, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research, stated that the atmosphere is currently 40% above pre-industrial carbon levels and that energy consumption is predicted to increase 80% by 2030. This requires significant investment in nuclear and renewable energy sources to just limit further increases of carbon concentrations.

--Judith Melin, Director General, Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate, expressed concern about the many new countries embarking upon nuclear programs with no experience, and the need to enhance international cooperation. She stated that there are many groups available to provide assistance and international support, and that small countries are resource challenged in balancing international and domestic duties and commitments.

--Ole Harbitz, Director General, The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NPRA), explained that more than 70% of research and test reactors (RTR) are greater than 40 years old and suggested that many were past the end of life both financially and environmentally. He also expressed that there is insufficient international cooperation on RTR safety and security, such as exists for power reactors, and that the IAEA should support harmonization of RTR safety standards.

Presentations were also given by Bernard Fourest, Electricite de France, Chairman of the Halden Reactor Project Board of Management; and Massimo Salvatores, Generation IV International Forum Policy Director.

Visit to Halden Research Reactor

18. (C) On Thursday, June 12th, the Chairman visited the Halden Reactor Project with the following observations:

--Plant conditions at Halden were not up to U.S. standards. The staff interacts very informally and does not exhibit a strong leadership structure.

--Security at the site is limited. The only noted guard force was at the entrance checkpoint to the facility. Additionally, in response to our noting that the guard force was not armed, Halden management responded that this was Norway, implying there were no credible threats in Norway. We were informed that the facility had run site penetration exercises by a very credible opponent, and that the invasion force was promptly stopped upon entering the site.

--Halden management believes that the NRC provided great support to Halden and desires to continue its cooperation with NRC.

--The Halden machine shop was noteworthy, with exceptional precision manufacturing capability and highly skilled technicians.

Comment

19. (C) Comment: Although Chairman Klein's visit to Norway was highly successful, it brought to light several developments, chief among them the loss of authority by the independent civilian nuclear regulator in Russia. Although the NRC believes that the USG should continue support of Norwegian regulators efforts to engage Russia in emergency preparedness and waste processing in the Kola Peninsula, Norwegian authorities are clearly frustrated with Russia's lack of cooperation. Although the USG should continue to make clear to Norway at high levels that we are willing to support nuclear power development initiatives in Norway itself, post believes that for the foreseeable future, Norwegian politicians will not find this politically palatable. The lack of security at the Halden Reactor

demonstrates a typical Norwegian &it can,t happen here8
mindset which has been seen recently in other areas, such as
the Bhatti terrorism trial. Nonetheless, it remains a cause
for concern. End Comment.

[¶](#)10. Chairman Klein has cleared this cable.

WHITNEY